

Application No. 10/531,818
Amd. Dated: February 14, 2008
Reply to Office Action mailed November 14, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 5. This sheet, which includes Fig. 5, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 5.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-16 are pending. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowing claims 10 through 16 and indicating that claims 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended to include all of the limitations of independent claim 7 from which both claims depend. Claims 1-6 have also been cancelled, not to avoid any reference but to expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Applicant reserves the right to file the cancelled claims in a continuing application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each ground of rejection as subsequently recited herein. Reconsideration of this Application and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to because they include a reference number not mentioned in the detailed description. Specifically, FIG. 5 included the reference number 180. As the Examiner correctly surmised, the reference number should be 170. Applicant has amended FIG. 5 to correct this inadvertent error, changing reference number 180 to reference number 170, thereby obviating the objection. A Replacement Sheet has been included in an Appendix to this Amendment. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,752,969 to Cunci et al. (the *Cunci* patent).

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 have been cancelled by the present amendment thereby rendering moot this rejection. For this reason, the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,752,969 to Cunci et al. (the *Cunci* patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,604,995 to Stephens et al. (the *Stephens* patent). Claim 4 has been cancelled by the present amendment.

For this reason, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 4 under § 103(a).

Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,793,673 to Kowalsky et al. (the *Kowalsky* patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,752,969 to Cunci et al. (the *Cunci* patent). Claim 7 has been cancelled by the present amendment. The limitations of claim 7 have been added to allowable claims 8 and 9. Applicant, therefore, requests the withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 7 under § 103(a).

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2525. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (707) 543-5484.

Respectfully submitted,

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